

Parish of Bangor, Member of Ards Pastoral Community

3rd Sunday of Advent - 17 December 2017

World Meeting of Families on 21-26 August 2018, Dublin

Icon of the Holy Family

Description of the Icon continued.

The Archangels Michael and Gabriel

"Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?" [Hebrews 1:14]. Both of these Divine Servants are robed quite splendidly, as they reflect the beauty of God. As we read in the Scriptures, angels are winged creatures [cf. Exodus 25, Ezekiel chapter 1, Isaiah 6]. They are not static beings. We see them in graceful movement, bearing with them the dynamism of the love of God. They both carry a staff of God's power and an orb upon which is written abbreviations for the name of Christ in Greek (IC XC Jesus Christ) as Jesus is the Word God speaks to us. Michael, whose name means 'who is like God', has a shimmering cloak. Gabriel is dressed in green – a colour associated with the Holy Spirit, who as we hear in the Creed is "the Lord, the giver of life". It is fitting that the angels feature on the outside of the icon as they carry with them the desire of God to protect. As we read in Exodus chapter 23:20-21: "I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. Be attentive to him and listen to his voice... for my name is in him."



Their heads are bowed in adoration and service of God, the Holy One. Their tightly curled hair has ribbons – which are somewhat like 'antennae' receiving the promptings of God. (*more next week*)

During the **Sundays in Advent** we are launching one of the initiatives from the Parish Pastoral Council and the World Meeting of Families Team.

We have asked some of the families to participate in the Sacred Liturgy of the Celebration of Mass during the Advent Season at each of the weekend Masses and in each of the Churches throughout our Bangor Parish. They will be Lighting the Advent Candle at the beginning of Mass on behalf of all the families in the parish.

Consider becoming a volunteer – Get involved be part of the experience!!

Apply to volunteer at www.worldmeeting2018.ie/Volunteer

More information will be posted on our parish website www.bangorparish.com under World Meeting of Families.

Sunday Mass Times this week:

Bangor: Vigil 6.30 pm,
10.30 am, 12.30 pm.
Donaghadee: Sun 9.30 am.
Ballyholme: 11 am.

Hollywood: Vigil 6.30 pm;
10 am and 12 noon.

Newtownards: Vigil 6.30 pm; 11.30 am.

Comber: 10.00 am.

Weekday Mass Times:

Bangor: Mon - Thurs 9.30 am.
Friday as announced.

Ballyholme: Mon and Friday 9am.

Confessions: Sat 5.30 pm.

Baptisms: 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 2pm.
Contact the Parish Office during office hours to register.
4 week's notice must be given.

Children's Liturgy:

Every Sunday at the 10.30am Mass in St Comgall's Bangor for primary school children.

Your prayers are requested for:

Recently Deceased:

Desmond Hanna, Anne Smith,
Martin Drew,

Anniversaries:

William Lismore, Joan Larkin,
John McPadden, James Savage,
Michael McGonigal, Margo Saunders,
Phil Jones, Eileen Thompson,
Ellen and Danny Dougherty,
Dave Tandy, Nora Somerville,
Ernest Teer, Patrick Reilly,
Ann Spruce, Charlotte McAlorum,
Eileen Young, Patricia Lynch,
Michael and Mary Maguire,
James and Emily Dorrian,
Bridie York, Nora Rea.

*Grateful thanks for donations
received this week amounting to
£1,350 for St Comgall's Church
refurbishment fund.*

Perpetual Adoration

St Comgall's Church
Monday 10.30am-9.30pm.

Ministers of the Word/Eucharist

New rotas are available in the Sacristy
for collection this weekend.

**Penitential Services for Christmas
will be held in:**

Ballygalget: 6pm Wed 20 December;
Portaferry: 7.30pm Wed 20 Dec;
Bangor: 7.30pm Thurs 21 Dec.

Mass times for Christmas Eve:

St Comgall's Bangor 9pm and 11pm;
Most Holy Redeemer 9pm.

Mass times for Christmas Day:

St Comgall's Donaghadee 9.30am;
St Comgall's Bangor 9am and 11am;
Most Holy Redeemer 11am.

Trocaire Global Gifts

Give a gift this Christmas and help
transform lives. This year you can
choose from 10 gifts that help families
work their way out of poverty and end
the daily struggle for essentials like
water and food. From Chicks £5, school
lunches £20, Goats £40, Beehives £55,
land for a family home £125, Farming
Kit for a family £170. The full range of
gifts are on the notice board and are
available to buy from the Parish Office.
*When you buy a Trocaire gift you're
not just giving, you're joining the fight
for justice.*

**Liam Lawton Concert -
O Holy Night**

Saintfield & Carrickmannon Parish,
Mon 18 December in Aid of Marie Cure
and the NI Hospice. For tickets contact:
07788435797 or 07919332.

**Bangor Parish
7 Day Trip to Brittany and
Normandy**

From June 25th to July 1st joining the
one day St Columbanus International
Meeting **in St Coulomb June 30th.**

The cost is 895 euro pp sharing, all
breakfasts and dinners included, 3
nights Lisieux, 3 nights St Malo. Day
trips include; Places associated with St
Therese, Mont St Michel, Dinard and
more. (Courier: Kieran Troy who has led
Bangor groups in the recent past). As
there is great demand for hotel space in
Brittany in this period prompt booking
would be highly recommended.

Details on the parish website, church
notice board and from the Parish Office.

**The Emerald Ball at Titanic,
Belfast** will take place on St Patrick's
Day, 17th March 2018. The evening will
commence with drinks at 7pm, followed
by a superb four course dinner at 8pm.
There will be a high-end luxury ballot
and dancing to a live band. Dress is
formal and monies raised will support
the Down & Connor Lourdes
Pilgrimage for the Sick. Tickets £60 pp
are available from the pilgrimage
secretary, Sinead 9064 6040 or the
Drumbo Parish office 9081 2238. The
Emerald Ball would be the perfect
Christmas gift and promises to be a
highlight of the social calendar so be
sure to reserve your tickets early.

Ards CCE Christmas CD

Now available from Thomas' shop
'Home for Christmas' priced at £10 will
make the perfect Christmas gift.
All Ards CCE classes start back on Sat
20 January for all traditional
instruments, beginners welcome.
More info Ards CCE facebook.

**Trócaire's Christmas Appeal,
'Until Love Conquers Fear',**

is raising money to support people all
over the developing world who face fear
every day of their lives – like the fear of
not being able to feed their children or
the fear of having to flee their homes
because of conflict. To find out more
about the appeal visit www.trocaire.org
"In love there is no room for fear, but
perfect love drives out fear..." *John*
4:18.

**An Evening of Festive Favourites
at Drumalis:** *Fri 22 Dec at 7pm.* The
evening will include seasonal favourites,
old and new, performed by Voices
Chamber Choir under the direction of
Loreto McAuley. Festive reception with
entertainment commencing at 7.30pm.
A two-course supper will be served
during the interval. Cost £25 pp and
adm is by pre-paid ticket only. For
further info contact Drumalis during
office hours (Mon-Fri 9-5pm) Tel Nos
028 2827 2196/028 2827 6455.

**Living Youth – World Meeting of
Families - Volunteering**

Living Youth is leading a Youth Group
from the Diocese of Down & Connor to
Dublin this coming summer to
volunteer at the World Meeting of
Families Congress and to attend the
Papal Mass. The trip will be from 22-26
August 2018 and will be for those aged
16-25, cost will be £100 per person. We
expect places to fill quickly so to register
your interest please email Living Youth
@ info@livingyouthni.org with your
name, contact number, parish and dob
or contact us directly on 9023 2432.

Can you spare 1 HOUR a week?

Would you like to help the Red Cross
care for people in your local
community? No experience necessary.
Full training provided and volunteer
expenses reimbursed at 45p per mile.
Contact Siobhan McGlone at 028
82251116/07702338930 or at
smcglone@redcross.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Catholic Schools Week 2018

Sunday, January 28 marks the start of
Catholic Schools Week.

As well as school-based activities, there
will be a parish mass in Bangor at 9.30am
for "Grandparents Day" on Wed. Jan 31
with all schools represented.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

will be celebrated in this parish on
Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 5pm.

Marian Prayer Group meet every
Thurs evening for 1hr at 6.30pm in St
Comgall's Church, Brunswick Road.
Rosary for the Unborn, Reflection,
Music, Petitions and Divine Mercy
Chaplet. All ages welcome.

Support for the Bereaved

If you need to talk to someone about
your bereavement, a member of the
Bethany Bereavement Support Group
can be contacted on the Confidential
mobile number: 075 1085 2157.